

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Liquid clay comprising: ~~wherein~~

a clay body is prepared by combining and kneading carboxymethylcellulose ~~or an equivalent material;~~

fine vegetable powder comprising vegetable matter including wood, ~~and~~

sodium alginate ~~or an equivalent material, and by further adding~~

water; and

~~any one pigment or a plurality of pigments,~~ at least one pigment forming a color
wherein a liquid clay body is produced and the color thereof is modified, the liquid clay body serving as a clay-like paint having said color.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process for making Liquid clay comprising the following steps: wherein, by

combining and kneading an aqueous solution of carboxymethylcellulose ~~or an equivalent material~~, with fine vegetable powder comprising vegetable matter including wood, sodium alginate or an equivalent material,

combining the aqueous solution with at least one pigment forming a color ~~and any one pigment or a plurality of pigments,~~

forming a liquid clay body ~~is prepared in a state~~ suitable for spatula application and having said color, the liquid clay body serving as a clay-like paint.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The liquid clay recited in Claim 1, wherein the liquid clay body is prepared by combining and kneading carboxymethylcellulose, an aqueous solution of PVA adhesive, ~~fine~~ vegetable powder comprising vegetable matter including wood, and sodium alginate or an equivalent material.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The liquid clay recited in Claim 3 wherein titanium oxide is further added to and kneaded with said liquid clay body.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The liquid clay recited in Claim 1, wherein said ~~fine~~ vegetable powder is a fine powder containing wood sawdust.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The liquid clay recited in Claim 2, wherein said sawdust contains at least any one from among Japanese cedar, Japanese cypress, Thujopsis dolabrata, hemlock spruce, fir, Japanese black pine, Japanese red pine, spruce, white fir, Thuja standishii larch, umbrella pine, Japanese oak, beech, fraxinus griffithii, ash, zelkova tree, paulownia tree, cherry tree, chestnut tree, maple tree, Cercidiphyllum japonicum, camphor tree, cryptomeria, Oregon pine, yellow cedar, mertensiana, oak, mahogany, redwood, sequoia cedar, incense cedar, Tilia japonica, teak, Taiwan cypress, ebony, lauan tree, and Chaenomeles sinensis.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The liquid clay recited in Claim 2, wherein said sawdust is formed into a block by applying pressure and then ground into a 50 to 150 micron fine powder.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Liquid clay wherein the liquid clay recited in Claim 1 is enclosed in containers for each of the colors of said liquid clay bodies.

Claim 9 (New) The liquid clay as in claim 1, wherein the liquid clay comprises between 63-65% of a 3% aqueous solution of carboxymethylcellulose.

Claim 10 (New) The liquid clay as in claim 1, wherein said liquid clay comprises between 19% and 31% of 100 mesh wood powder.

Claim 11 (New) The liquid clay as in claim 1, wherein said liquid clay comprises between 5% and 15% titanium oxide.

Claim 12 (New). The liquid clay as in claim 1, wherein said liquid clay comprises between 1% and 2% sodium alginate.

Claim 13. (New) A process for forming liquid clay comprising the steps of:

- combining and kneading an aqueous solution of carboxymethylcellulose, with vegetable powder comprising vegetable matter including wood, and sodium alginate,
- mixing in water into the aqueous solution
- combining the aqueous solution with at least one pigment forming a color;
- forming a liquid clay body
- modifying the color wherein the liquid clay body serves as a clay-like paint having said color.

14. (New) The process as in claim 13, wherein said step of combining further comprises placing the aqueous solution in a kneader.

15. (New) The process as in claim 14, wherein said step of kneading includes kneading the aqueous solution for up to 10 minutes.

16. (New) The process as in claim 14, wherein said step of kneading includes kneading the aqueous solution for at least 10 minutes.

17. (New) The process as in claim 13, further comprising the step of kneading in titanium oxide and sodium alginate to prepare said liquid clay to be suitable for a spatula application.